

WOOLLEN DRAPER'S LETTER

ON THE

FRENCH TREATY.

[PRICE SIX-PENCE.]

WOOLMEN DRAPERS LETTER



FRENCH CREATY

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[PRICE SIX PENCE]

A
WOOLLEN DRAPER'S LETTER
ON THE
FRENCH TREATY,
TO
HIS FRIENDS
AND
FELLOW TRADESMEN
ALL OVER ENGLAND.

“ THE CLOTHIERS ALL NOT ABLE TO MAINTAIN
“ THE MANY TO THEM 'LONGING, HAVE PUT OFF
“ THE SPINSTERS, CARDERS, FULLERS, WEAVERS.”
SHAKESPEARE'S HENRY VIII.

L O N D O N:
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PHILIP

AND

"THE CHURCHMAN AND HIS WORLD TO THE
"THE NEW YORK TIMES, LONDON, HAVE NOT
"THE CHURCHMAN, LONDON, HAVE NOT
"THE CHURCHMAN, LONDON, HAVE NOT

—

LONDON

PRINTED FOR THE AUTHOR, AND SOLD BY J. JOHNSON,
BOOKSELLER, NO. 1, ST. PAUL'S CHURCH-YARD, LONDON.
THE BOOKSellers HAVE THE HONOUR TO
ON THE 1st OF JANUARY, 1841.

—

W. & A. G.

A
L E T T E R

T O T H E

Woollen Manufacturers, &c.

Friends and Fellow-Countrymen,

I SIT down to write to you, with true and hearty concern, on a hard and trying occasion, when I know for a certainty, that your livelihoods, and all the decent comforts of yourselves and your families are at stake. Every honest man who wishes well to the hundreds, and

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hundreds of thousands concerned in our WOOLLEN MANUFACTURES, every Master Clothier, every Working Clothier, every Apprentice in our trade, and, I may add too, every Landholder and farmer, who grows wool in any part of the country, should one and all look on the present moment as the most hazardous and dangerous to their concerns, that ever was, or ever can be.

Before I proceed, I will tell you, my Friends, how it is that I am in some sort qualified to write to you, on this great business of the French Treaty of Commerce, and wherefore I presume to offer you my humble advice, honestly and plainly.

You will please to notice, that, in quality of Factor for British Cloths, I have many years dealt largely in the Woollens of all parts of the country, and may boldly say, I am not unskilled in the different sorts, either as to quality or price.

Moderate

Moderate success in trade has, I thank God for it, in a manner set me above the world ; so that although I continue in business, it is not from necessity ; but having a family for whom I have worked hard, while I am blessed with my health, I mean to go on with my trade for their sakes, and I hope, (if the Woollen Branch can hold up its head, in spite of all our enemies) I hope, I say, to make up a sufficient capital for my sons to continue their father's business, even drawing out handsome portions for their sisters. I will own to you, I have a pride in my business, and a love for the Manufacture by which I have honestly made my own fortune. I can't see a new and a heavy affliction falling upon all the Woollen branches, without throwing in my mite to aid and assist you against it in the hour of danger. And this I solemnly declare to you is my sole and whole motive for now interfering : for I believe I may appeal to all who know me, for my not being one of those who meddle with matters out of my calling ; nor, I am sure,

have I any bias on my mind for this or that great man, or for any, or all of the parties and politicians that cut a figure in high life.—Whig or Tory, Peace-maker or Peace breaker, Foxite or Pittite, is no proper concern for either master or man in trade. At least I'll answer for myself, since as long as the country thrives, and trade flourishes, who is *in*, or who *out*, is a matter of no concern to me or mine.

But for fear of talking too much of myself, I shall lose no more time to let you know in a few plain words, the occasion and cause of this my Address to you.

You have all of you heard, that about the middle of last month, a new Treaty of Commerce, (new indeed to every well-wisher to Old England) was signed and sealed at Paris, whereby an old scheme that was proposed about seventy years back, but thrown out then, for open trading between us, and our old enemies, the French, is again patched up, in spite

spite of the whole country having set their faces against it such a long time back,

This *wise* scheme is to give power and licence to the French to bring in ALL their *Woollens* to our market, on proviso of our Manchester Merchants having the same privilege to sell the *French* their *Cottons*, and the Birmingham and Sheffield trades, and the Iron branch. Also *French* Wines, *French* Brandies, and *French* Vinegars, are to come in on low duties, to the great detriment, if not entire stop of the Portugal trade, (which I need not tell you, has always been the fast friend, the strong hold, the sheet anchor, as I may say, of our *Woollens*) and likewise to the ruin of our West India Merchants, who you well know deal largely for our goods, but cannot go on if their Rum is under-sold by the French Brandies, as it certainly will be if the Treaty is suffered to be made into law.

Now,

Now, this dangerous Treaty, the main articles of which I have related to you, I have read over, and over, and studied with all the attention in my power. I have likewise consulted many of my friends, capital Merchants, and others in the city, chiefly as to that part of it which presses most hardly on us, and indeed touches us to the quick, the letting the *French* into all our *home markets* for the Woollens; and I can safely assure you, that not a man of them but thinks with me, that ALL OF OUR BRANCH ARE ABSOLUTELY EXPOSED TO RUIN BY IT; and that the whole plan is neither more nor less than robbing old friends to serve old enemies; or, to speak out boldly and honestly, a shameful sacrifice of the best trades of Old England, for the worst luxuries of France.

But among all the objections I have heard to this French Treaty, (and if I said there are as many made in the city of London as there are shops in the streets, I should not say more than is true) none are
so

so general in all parts, as those that concern the *Woollens*, which being the staple Manufacture; and touching on so many hundreds and hundreds of thousands, growers, as well as workers of Wool, no wonder that taking off the *old high duties*, which for centuries have kept away the cheap *French Cloths*, spreads an alarm through the whole town and country. By the Treaty, very low ones are laid on, on pretence that, as we are to have the same right of exporting ours to France, both countries will be on a par; which is a falsehood, seen through by all who understand the case, and which I can prove to you to be neither more nor less than giving the French power to *undersell* us with *their* Cloths, in our *home* market, because forsooth, we may have leave to carry out ours, WHERE THEY NEVER CAN BE SOLD.

Now, it is to prove this very point, that I write this very letter; and therefore, to convince you beyond a doubt, that our *good friends*, the French, cannot
 I fail

fail to undersell us in the manner I have told you, I will first shew you the extraordinary advantages which the Manufacturers of France have over us, in *low taxes, cheap provisions*, and, by consequence, *cheap labour*. Next, I will give you a faithful account of the *actual* state of their Woollen Manufactories throughout all parts of their country ; and thirdly, I will relate to you, in what cases they have already supplanted us in all the *Foreign* trade for Woollens ; and lastly, the plain strong reasons why they must as certainly undersell us in our own *home* market, if unfortunately for us all, our Parliament men can ever be so misled as to vote for the Treaty.

But before I go on with these points, I think it best to mention, what to every moderate well-meaning man, makes a main difference in treating about such a subject. You will all of you observe, therefore, that though this Treaty has been signed and sealed, yet nevertheless *it is not LAW yet*. And that for this reason,

reason, namely, because a Treaty of Commerce is different from other Treaties ; for, as every one knows, the Government can lawfully make Treaties concerning *Peace* and *War*, by their own authority and prerogative, whereas a Treaty of Commerce, as the 14th article of the present Treaty directly says, “ *can have* “ *no effect, nor in any degree take place,* “ *until after the Parliament of Great Bri-* “ *tain have repealed many of the oldest* “ *laws, and passed various new acts to give* “ *it force.*” Our blessed constitution having wisely left us, in a point so near, and dear to us all, this great security against any violent and sudden shiftings from our old fixed and steady commerce, either through the ignorance of the parties concerned, or the rashness they might fall into or contrive. Wherefore I say, this Treaty being open to the free and full observation of every person, high, or low, in all quarters of the kingdom, on purpose to collect the real genuine opinions of *our own representatives* upon it, it can’t fail but that the interests and livelihoods of all their poor but ho-

nest constituents, must be closely consulted, and specially attended to; wherefore, let me caution you all, as you prize yourselves and your families, not to be cajoled either by favour or affection, or any deceitful pretence of not meddling with state-affairs, out of the free exercise of your understandings, on a business which in a manner directly comes before you for your judgment.

Confiding, therefore, in your fairly attending to what is fairly meant, I shall go on with the plain truths I have to declare, which may appear home-spun and coarse, but I hope of some substance.

I have told you, I would prove to you, what advantage the French manufacturers have over ours, in low taxes, cheap provisions, and cheap labour.

Now, as to the weight of our own taxes, God knows we all daily and hourly feel, that every comfort, every *necessary of life*, our *malt*, our *beer*, *cyder*, *spirits*,
salt,

salt, leather, soap, candles, our lands and houses, our shops and windows over and over, our horses, our carts, our men servants and our maid servants, even the births of our children, and the burials of our parents, all pay the highest taxes, that ever were imposed on any country, in any age. Ask your own hearts, if these galling burthens do not press on the lower orders, so as scarcely to be endured. In consequence of our taxes, is not the price of our subsistence every day encreasing, and whilst it does, must not the price of labour as infallibly rise with the price of the labourers' support?

Your own hard condition in these melancholy circumstances is too sensibly felt by you all. But you will naturally ask me, what is the situation of the French in these very particulars? Is it to the full as bad as ours? Or does it widely differ from it? If the former's the case, we are still on a par with them : if the latter, why it's as clear as the day we can't cope with them

in the same articles on equal terms.—In answer to this, I must inform you, that this matter can now be reduced to a certainty: For, first, as to our own taxes, no later than the month of March last past, orders were sent from Parliament to all the tax collectors of every kind, to the Custom-house, and the Excise-office, and the Stamp-office, and the Tax-office, and all the other *grinding shops* of the country, to give in the total of the money raised by the taxes. Now the very total of this, was published by the King's printer, and as it's put down there, when added to the poor's-rates, and the public tolls throughout the kingdom, amounts to the enormous sum of TWENTY MILLIONS NINE HUNDRED AND FORTY THOUSAND POUNDS, which if worked by common division into equal shares among the seven millions of our inhabitants, it is plain amounts to no less than FIFTY SHILLINGS a head. So much for *English* taxes!—Next as to *French* ones: They too have been published, *for the first time*, by the French Minister himself, and computed to amount, (when divided in the

same way among *their* inhabitants, and taking the French livre at ten-pence half-penny) to no more than EIGHTEEN SHILLINGS *a head*, leaving a difference of more than *three to one* in favour of the French against the English manufacturer. Here then is the plain state of French and English taxes for yourselves to judge of; the consequence is as clear as the sun at noon-day. Exactly the same difference holds in French and English provisions. Their bread, their beer, their meat, lower than ours, at the rate of three to one; and every article of livelihood the same. What then, to come to the point, has all this done for the French Woollen Manufactures? Why every thing that must be done as long as the world lasts, where taxes are not heavy, provisions reasonable, and wages low; and where too the workmen, it would be a folly to deny, are as handy and expert as any people in the world. THE FRENCH WOOLLEN MANUFACTURES, though not in a manner set up till so late as the reign of their *Louis the*
Four-

Fourteenth, the great enemy of England, are at this day UNIVERSALLY ESTABLISHED THROUGHOUT EVERY PART OF FRANCE. In every one of their provinces and countries, great extensive Woollen Manufactories are now in the very height of prosperity. I myself know it for a fact, that every species of woollens is completely worked up in all quarters of that kingdom. Cloths, whole thick plains, ferges, ratteens, kerfimeres, whole thick kerseys, camblets, calamancoes, tam-mies, crapes, baizes, flannels, frizes, druggets, and what not, are all made in above FIVE HUNDRED FRENCH TOWNS. A capital merchant in our line, (who many years back passed two months in France, for the recovery of bad debts) gave it me under his hand, that at the town of *Amiens*, the Woollen Manufactures in that one spot, amounted even then, to nearly *one million six hundred thousand livres* annually; and likewise, that in another quarter, at a town of the name of *Beauvais*, above *five hundred looms* were constantly employed on *seven hundred*
and

and forty-five thousand pounds of French wool, and one hundred and fifteen thousand pounds of Spanish ditto, of which they annually made sixty-eight thousand pieces of stuff; having no less than forty fulling mills in and about the neighbourhood. And as to the Abbeville manufactory, I believe that's too universally known to need particulars; but an account is now at a capital house in the City, that the annual product of Languedoc alone is fourteen millions three hundred and thirty thousand livres.—Such are the known amounts in these instances; but again I say, let it always be remembered, that even in the year 1760, the very list at the end of this letter was publickly printed, containing near FIVE HUNDRED TOWNS IN FRANCE, ALL ENGAGED IN THE WOOLLEN MANUFACTORY; ALL BLEST WITH LOW TAXES; CHEAP PROVISIONS, AND OF COURSE CHEAP LABOUR.

Now, such being the state of the French Woollens, I ask this; will any one wonder that wherever the French have been

been able to gain admittance, they have out and out rivalled the English, and actually got into their own possession, almost the whole monopoly of the foreign markets for woollens?

In the LEVANT TRADE, I ask any Merchant this plain question: Hav'n't the French notoriously supplanted us in that lucrative branch, thereby not only securing a vend for their *woollens*, but also the valuable return of raw silk for their other manufacture. To what purpose was it that all our people complained of the encrease of the French Woollens, on the decay and ruin of ours? What good did the Parliament do by passing Act upon Act to restore that branch? The moment the French came in competition with us, they directly undersold us, as they always must be able to do in every market where they come with such advantages; and what was the consequence? Why the woollen trade to Turkey, where we formerly sold woollens to such an amount, as to bring in a balance to England of FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND POUNDS, is NOW REDUCED TO NOTHING.

In

In the same way our EXPORTS OF WOOLLEN BOTH TO GERMANY AND HOLLAND were formerly a most lucrative branch, but in both of these likewise, it is a known fact, that the superior cheapness of the French woollens has run away with the preference. In fact, let common sense determine, whether it is possible that any buyers will shut their eyes to their own interest, in order wilfully to purchase of those who sell dearest? What it would be idle to expect from individuals in trade, it is downright nonsense to hope from nations in commerce:

The cheapest trader always must have the preference; nor did any man, or set of men, ever gain a vend for their merchandize, when dearer than those of their competitors, except in the case of Portugal in favour of our woollens. And how was that? Why thus.—It was settled by the famous *Methuen Treaty*, that the English would always import the Portuguese wines, at duties, one-third lower than any we should ever lay on French wines: and the Portuguese bound them-

D selves

selves in return to admit our woollens on low fixed duties. This was wise and just, and both parties really served each other; for as we had no wines of our own growth, the Portuguese procured a certain vend among us for the article which they produced; and as they had no woollen manufactures of their own, we gained their preference in favour of ours. Yet even in this case, where nature, and such mutual advantage had joined, as all mankind would have thought, to *secure* us our woollen trade, even here, (such is the busy meddling spirit of the French, and such the great advantage which they have over us, in being able to work up very nearly as good cloths as ours, at a vastly lower price,) they have nevertheless by degrees contrived to get in their woollens among the Portuguese, in spite of the common interest that England and Portugal have to barter in the way agreed on. But instead of checking these practices, what is the effect of this French Treaty? why, to reward France for all this mischief, by doing every thing to admit

mit her wines, and consequently to make our consumption of the Portugal wines so much less, as to take away the great motive for the Portuguese preferring our woollens. And now I come to the *point* of shewing you, that the French having beat us out of all the *foreign* markets, must as certainly undersell us in our own *home* markets, if this Treaty is allowed to pass into law. First then, I'll only appeal to all that has happened in this country for centuries back, to see what ways we have always taken to guard our staple manufacture. What has been one never-departed-from rule in all past ages? Why this; to secure, by every possible way, the HOME MARKET FOR OUR MANUFACTURES; convinced that the *home* market is in every instance, infinitely preferable to every possible advantage in the *foreign* market. And that this material point may be perfectly clear, I have got a copy of the opinion of Sir *Theodore Jansen*, the known true friend of England, on this very point. Here are his words: “ *The first and best market in*

“ England, are the natives and inhabi-
 “ tants of England itself. The admitted
 “ computation of the numbers of our people,
 “ is seven millions; and these, great and
 “ small, rich and poor, one with another,
 “ are not lodged and fed for less than
 “ SEVEN POUNDS PER HEAD; so that the
 “ expence or consumption of our whole peo-
 “ ple must amount to FIFTY MILLIONS
 “ STERLING PER ANNUM. This whole
 “ sum is annually paid for the product and
 “ manufactures of Great Britain, except only
 “ such part as may reasonably be deducted
 “ for our foreign consumption, and for the
 “ annual lodging of the people. Now our
 “ whole IMPORTATIONS do not exceed the
 “ value of FIVE MILLIONS PER ANNUM,
 “ and of these great quantities are re-exported,
 “ certainly reducing the foreign consumption
 “ to FOUR MILLIONS. It has been computed
 “ also, that our people are lodged at about
 “ the price of ten shillings per head at a me-
 “ dium, and the whole house-rents of Eng-
 “ land, for seven millions, cannot exceed
 “ three millions per annum. Thus allowing
 seven

“ *seven millions and a half for foreign con-*
 “ *sumption, above FORTY TWO of the*
 “ *FIFTY MILLIONS expence of our people*
 “ *are paid for the product and manufacture*
 “ *of our native country. OUR OWN PEO-*
 “ *PLE BEING THE CONSTANT, SAFE,*
 “ *UNFAILING MARKET FOR OUR OWN*
 “ *PR DUCT AND OUR OWN MANUFAC-*
 “ *TURES TO THAT IMMENSE AMOUNT.”*

What therefore can be clearer than the
 maxim laid down, not only by this ex-
 cellent writer, but also by every other
 writer on the subject without exception?
 That, THE PRESERVATION OF THE HOME
 MARKET TO OUR OWN MANUFACTURES
 IS THE GREAT VITAL PRINCIPLE NEVER
 TO BE DEPARTED FROM.

But it may be asked, wherefore are the
 WOOLLEN MANUFACTURES, of all others,
 best entitled to the full possession of the
 home market? To this I directly answer,
 because there is a greater number of trades
 dependant on these Manufactures than on
 any other. It has been positively asserted,
 that from the Wool-grower, to the Con-
 sumer,

sumer, a piece of Broad Cloth passes though *one hundred hands*. But if to these we add the numerous trades employed in the several beneficial commodities arising from Sheep, such as Skins, Tallow, &c. &c. and the Retailers of these Manufactures, it will be found easier to conceive than compute the prodigious multitudes that are employed by them; so that nothing can extend farther or wider than the produce of Wool, or the benefits derived from it to the whole community. Many computations have been made on this important subject, and amongst others, one about thirty years since, which was thought as exact as possible. According to the best information that could be obtained, there are from ten to twelve millions of Sheep in England, some think more. The value of their Wool may, one year with another, amount to *three millions*; the expence of manufacturing this may probably be *nine millions*, and the total value *twelve millions*. We may export annually to the value of *three millions*, though one year we exported more

more than *four*. In reference to the number of persons who are maintained by this Manufacture, there are probably upwards of a *million*. Add to which also, the amazing consumption constantly and necessarily made, by the multitude of persons employed therein, of all *exciseable* commodities. And is there a man can lay his hand on his heart, and deny that THE BRITISH WOOLLEN MANUFACTURERS are entitled to the FIRST and GREATEST CONSIDERATION. Yes, I will say with heartfelt conviction and triumph, we are the best benefactors to our country.

And is it possible then to suffer, or even bearable to hear of our ancient fixed privileges of the *home market*, being suddenly and wholly shared with the French? It is nonsense to say, and madness to believe, that we shall have equal benefit by carrying our Woollens to them; 'tis a lying trick, and a cheat on our property. Who is there can doubt that the French work their Woollens much cheaper than we do ours?

ours? and who of their nation then will buy ours at a dearer rate? Whereas, who amongst us won't buy *theirs*, in these dear times, when we can get them cheaper? Only to mention two sorts—the black and the scarlets—In both of these the French have certainly the art of working the one up with such a gloss, and the other to so bright a colour, as, I am sorry to say, we cannot come up to; and yet they can sell them cheaper. Now only reflect what a consumption we have always hitherto had of blacks and scarlets. All our clergy, of course, dealt for the blacks; but in future, out of their great numbers, how few are there, (the more pity and shame it is) that can afford to buy a worse looking rusty black than the glossy sort, which appears decent and respectable much longer. It would be very unreasonable to suppose that the clergy should not look out, as they certainly will, for the best and cheapest of the sort, which no honest man will say our blacks are. Our counsellors too, and most branches of the law, deal largely in the blacks.

Hitherto

Hitherto all this was a market for so much English cloth; and, if I may be so jocular, though the black gentry *fleeced* us many ways, we *fleeced* them with our woollens at last. In the article of court mournings too, there's not a doubt but the French blacks will be all the fashion, for lightness, gloss, and cheapness. Now what a heavy and serious loss will this prove? Formerly, when it pleased the Almighty to take off any of the foreign Princes, and orders came out for our all mourning for them, it was a great comfort, and a fine thing to have it said, that though these great personages had no power or opportunity to be of any use to us through the whole course of their lives, yet they served us at last, by giving a spirit to the woollens, and getting off many thousands of our worst and most damaged blacks. But hereafter, when the French blacks are all the vogue, surely it will be a hard case for a whole nation to be ordered into French cloth for foreign Princes. To be

sure we shall have more reason than we ever had before, to pray for their lives, for not a cousin German of them all will die off, without being felt as a heavy loss to our trade, and sincerely mourned by many thousands of our poor manufacturers. In like manner, it won't get our red-coated gentry much favour with the people to see them cloathed, by pinching Agents and trading Colonels, (who will always buy what's cheapest) in cheap foreign scarlets. A *standing Army* will more than ever be a *standing curse*, dressed in our enemies' cloths! and it will be a fine sight to see a *British* army in *French* regimentals!

We are told however, that let our *Woollen* trade decline ever so much, our *Cotton* will more than proportionately increase, and our *Iron*, and our *Potteries* become extensive branches of foreign commerce. God knows I would be the last man in the world to say a word against any body of industrious Tradesmen; I
would

would leave all those vile acts of setting one trade against another, to your politicians, who are too apt to make a trade of every thing. Indeed so far from having a thought of prejudicing the character of the Cotton or Iron branches, I think so well of them, that I verily believe if they come to know, *bonâ fide*, that they rise by our fall, they would to a man scorn the notion of getting on by any such means. But sure I am at liberty to say, that the telling us of the great things that are to be done for them, is but cold comfort for the unlooked for, and violent mischiefs that I feel are thrown upon us.

After seven years apprenticeship to one trade, and being in the practical line of it for twenty or thirty years afterwards, is it fair that you should be turned out in bodies, friendless, and sent adrift to learn a new trade? Is it just to drive you from your settlements—your homes—your neighbours, and your relations in various parts of the kingdom, in quest of

bread to *Manchester* ? What are you to do with your Looms ? Who will purchase them ? Must you pawn or sell them to buy different implements of trade for the forges of Birmingham ?

You may be told indeed, that the French will take them off your hands, to carry on their encreased trade ; or in other words, that we are to put swords into our enemies hands to stab at the life and soul of our commerce. If you can see the Treaty, you'll find it prohibits the export of Arms, and of warlike Stores ; but I leave it to all the world to determine, whether the enemy can ever carry away such mortal weapons to our trade, as the tools and implements of British Manufactures ? Is it to be borne with patience, that you must quit your accustomed possessions in *Gloucestershire*, *Essex*, *Yorkshire*, and other counties, and be torn from all the little decent comforts you have been used to, to take up a new and uncertain trade at *Sheffield* ? How will an old man like to be
a young

a young learner? How will any master tradesman bear to shift into an apprentice? The handiest Weaver may cut but a poor figure at the Anvil; for surely the two trades are as different as the Loom and the Forge. And yet I have read a copy of a letter from one of our great Senators, which says, *the demand for labour will be the same, though it may be in different places, and for different occupations. And what is the disbanding of some particular classes of Manufacturers more than that of so many Soldiers?* O! shameful! Is that a fit return for your honest industry! So far from being fit, it's not to be done; for even supposing the laws of apprenticeship were set aside, and every man's indentures of no avail, is it possible that the cleverest workmen in our Manufacture, could turn all at once, to be as skilful and expert in another, just as one of our mercenary Red-coats turns to a Labourer in rags, and lays down his Musket and his Bayonet, in exchange for a Spade and a Pick-axe? How too, in case of failure in a trade newly taken up,

under

under every disadvantage of want of practice ; how is the distressed workman to turn his hand to *other* business, in *strange* quarters with any chance of parish relief, or even safety from parish prosecutions and removals? But why, in God's name, if the French must have leave all at once to pour in their cheap woollens, in return for their giving a lift for a time to the Cotton, the Iron, and the Potteries, (I say *for a time*, for in a few years, by the artful tricks of the French, even those branches cannot fail to be as great sufferers as we shall now)—Why mayn't our manufacturers have the heavy differences that we pay in excises *countervailed*, as they call it, by real equal duties on the French Woollens, up to the value of all the high taxes the poor tradesmen of Old England are obliged to pay? This is to be done for the Cotton, the Iron, and the Potteries in one way ; why not for the Woollens in another? Surely the excises on provisions, soap, candles, beer, leather, and what not, by raising the price of labour, raise the price of the article,

just

just as certainly as if it was all at once taxed. And if our Woollens (as it is known to be the case) are all to nothing dearer than the French, by this very reason of our being high taxed and excised, why should not we too demand a *countervailing* duty to make up the difference? Is it not as clear as the day that the French, with their old arts in managing all these matters, kept clear of settling it in this just and equal way, because they knew in their hearts they are afraid of meeting us in any line of trade, if we have only fair play, aye, or any thing even in the shape of fair play? But *that* we never can have with the French Woollens, if no allowance is to be made for our high excises and taxes of all kinds, to say nothing of the higher wages for labour. And this, as you may all remember, was the very reason given by all the capital merchants and manufacturers publickly to the Parliament, when they were examined on the Irish Propositions, namely, that the Irish manufactures could never be brought into our market without ruining us, unless
duties

duties were laid on them up to the value of the heavy excises, and taxes, that fall upon the English manufacturer of the same kind of articles. And blessed be God for it, by the failure of that wicked and foolish scheme, the Irish goods are *not* poured in upon us without such duties; for if they had, we should all have been sufferers to the last day of our lives.

There is a piece of information too, I can give you, which will add to the arguments I have advanced. You all know, that a certain quantity of *Spanish* Wool is absolutely necessary to working up the English Wool for finer cloths. Now, what will you all think of this French Treaty for bringing in French Woollens, having been signed and sealed **BEFORE** the English have *any* Treaty with Spain for her Wool, and **AFTER** the French have signed and sealed a Treaty with that country, for the admission of that so necessary article, **FREE OF ALL DUTY FOR EVER !!!**

Having

Having thus, my friends, offered you my plain thoughts, I leave it to your own good sense, to consider what steps it may be prudent to take, to save yourselves and your families from the dangers that threaten you.

When this scheme was first put in practice, so far back as Queen Anne's time, ALL THE WOOLLEN MANUFACTURERS PETITIONED PARLIAMENT TO PROTECT THEM FROM THE CERTAIN RUIN OF THE FRENCH TREATY. I have mentioned a few of the places which will be most injured by the present Treaty; and I here give you copies of some of the very petitions which our good forefathers sent to Parliament in that moment of ruin.

F

PETI-

PETITION *of the Merchants of* LONDON, *Exporters of the* WOOLLEN MANUFACTURES, *to* Hamburg and Bremen, *and Importers of* LINEN *from* thence.

This petition sets forth, “ That the
 “ exportation of the *Woollen Manufac-*
 “ *tures* of this kingdom to *Hamburg* and
 “ *Bremen*, hath, since the high duties
 “ laid on *French* linens, much encreased
 “ by the encouraging the importation of
 “ *German* linens in lieu of them, which
 “ should the bill to make effectual the
 “ 8th and 9th articles pass, would be
 “ much lessened, and if *French linen* pay
 “ no higher duties than that of the coun-
 “ try most favoured, will be offered cheaper,
 “ and esteemed far better, and much decrease
 “ the importation of *German linen*, and
 “ hinder the vast quantities of *Woollen Ma-*
 “ *nufactures* annually exported thither, and
 “ the hands now employed in the linen, will
 “ then be employed in the *Woollen Manufac-*
 “ *tures*,

“ tures, *already set up in some places in Ger-*
 “ *many, And prays, the damage it may be*
 “ *to the proprietors, and to the nation in ge-*
 “ *neral, may be considered.*”

PETITION *from the* CLOTHIERS, &c.
in the County of GLOUCESTER.

This petition sets forth, “ That the
 “ petitioners are apprehensive that several
 “ articles contained in the Treaty of Na-
 “ vigation and Commerce, may be fatal
 “ to the *Woollen Manufactures*. That the
 “ chief markets for them are *Spain, Por-*
 “ *tugal, and Italy*; that by the near al-
 “ liance, and strict friendship, between
 “ the Crowns of *France and Spain, France*
 “ has already gained great advantages, and
 “ become a rival to England in the most
 “ valuable part of our *Woollen Manufac-*
 “ *tures*, so as, in all probability, they will
 “ not want, or take any more of our fine
 “ cloths, which makes it unreasonable
 “ that favour should be shewn to the pro-

“ duct of *France*, in prejudice to the com-
 “ modities of other countries, that take
 “ from us such great quantities of our
 “ *Woollen Manufactures*, and who will be
 “ no longer able to do so, when *French*
 “ wines are so lowered as to supply the
 “ demands of *England*. That if any altera-
 “ tion in the laws should happen in the expor-
 “ tation of our *Woollen Manufactures* unto
 “ foreign parts, a great part of the nation's
 “ riches would be lost, the poor would daily
 “ encrease and become chargeable to their
 “ parishes, and the value of lands in *England*
 “ must of necessity sink to a very great de-
 “ gree.”

PETITION of the Merchants, and others
 concerned in the WOOLLEN MANU-
 FACTURE in and about the Corporation
 of LEEDS, in behalf of themselves and
 MANY THOUSANDS employed therein.

This petition sets forth, “ That great
 “ quantities of their *Woollen Draperies* are,
 “ and have been yearly exported to *Portu-
 gal*

“ *gal and Spain.* That the taking off the
 “ duty of twenty-five pounds per ton on
 “ *French* wines, will discourage the im-
 “ portation of wines from *Portugal* and
 “ *Spain*, and lessen the demands of the
 “ said *Woollen Manufactures*.

PETITION of the *Clothiers and Bayma-*
kers of Bocking, Braintree, and Dun-
mow, in the County of Essex, in behalf
of themselves and MANY THOUSANDS
more concerned in the said Manufacture.

This petition sets forth, “ That the
 “ making of Bays, and other *Woollen Ma-*
 “ *nufactures*, are of great advantage, not
 “ only to the petitioners, but to the
 “ whole kingdom in general, by the con-
 “ sumption of great quantities of wool,
 “ and the employment of *many thousand*
 “ *persons, who otherwise would become an*
 “ *useless burthen to the country*: That the
 “ present inequality of the duties on wines
 “ of the growth of *France*, and those of
 “ *Portugal*, is a great inducement to the
 “ *Portu-*

“ *Portuguese* to take off the said manufac-
 “ tures of *England*, whilst we take off the
 “ product of their country from them.
 “ That should the duties on the commo-
 “ dities of the product of *France*, be set-
 “ tled upon an equality with those of *Por-*
 “ *tugal*, it would be a great discourage-
 “ ment, if not a total prohibition of the
 “ importing of the wines of *Portugal*, and
 “ and oblige the *Portuguese* to lay heavy
 “ duties on our manufactures, and there-
 “ by prohibit the importing them into
 “ their country, by which means the pe-
 “ titioners attribute the present fall and
 “ depreciating those commodities.”

PETITION of the *Stuff-makers and Clo-*
thiers, &c. within the City of BRISTOL,
on behalf of themselves and MANY
THOUSANDS employed in the WOOL-
LEN MANUFACTURE.

This petition sets forth, “ That for
 “ some time past the petitioners have not
 “ had

“ had sale for their goods, which has
 “ occasioned *thousands* of their poor to
 “ want employ, to the great increase of
 “ the poor rates, and praying relief, and
 “ that the *Spanish* and *Portugal* trade may
 “ not be discouraged.”

Such were the plain manly steps that
 our forefathers took to guard themselves
 and their families from the utter ruin of
 an open trade with the French. The
 treaty they petitioned against in the way
 you hear, was the very pattern and model
 of the present one; which the more you
 examine it, the more you'll be convinced
 is as poor and ordinary a piece of stuff as
 ever came from a workman's hand; badly
 worked, all over faulty, and of no con-
 sistence. All the country thought the
 first *warp* was bad, and I am sure the
woof is worse.--Cut it up, my countrymen,
 and burn it for an example.

But

But for God's sake, in following the steps of your forefathers, try to imitate also their temper and good order. You are not likely to be less sufferers, and you'll scarcely find yourselves more wise.

With a moderate, but firm spirit; with decent, but manly boldness, you still may triumph over all your enemies, as wishes

Your hearty friend and servant,

R. J. Woollen Draper.

A
L I S T
OF THE
CITIES AND TOWNS IN FRANCE,
WHEREIN THE
WOOLLEN MANUFACTURE
OF ALL SORTS ARE ESTABLISHED,
DISTINGUISHING EACH.

P I C A R D Y

A MIENS.— These Wool-
len Manufac-
tures amounts to
1,600,000 livres
annually; about
500 looms are
employed; and
are computed to
use in their fa-
bric 115,000 of
Spanish and 2000
pounds of English
wool.

Serges
Serge Cordeliers
— de Chalons
— Seigneurs
Quinquettes
Barracan
Tamimies

FINE CLOTHS
Serge de Londres
Razes de St. Lo
Ratines of Holland
Serge de Mouay
Barracans
Druggets
Tiretaines
Belingues
Penchinas

Tilley
Fierville
Naotirs
Beauchamps
Gravilliers
Feuquiers
Anmale
Anvoile
Glatigny
Seulles
Mouy and Creve-
cour
Trieft and 11 vil-
lages
Beauvais

Serges
Tiertaines

Serges
Ditto
Ratines
Bays

In this manufactory are employed about
745,000 pounds of French wool, 115,000
Spanish wool, of which they make 68,000
pieces of stuff. They have about 40 ful-
ling mills.

* This List was printed by authority in the year 1760; from which time it has
been annually increasing.

GENE.

GENERALITY of CHAMPAIGNE and SOISSON.

Rheims and Rhétel	{ Etamines Razes Cordeliers Serges	Montmirel Langres St. Just Anglure Sezanne La Ferte Gouchier La Ferte Sous Jouars	{ Cloth, Ell wide, and above to five quarters, ALL OF SPANISH WOOL only
Chateau-Portien Meziers Doncherry Mouzon Fifines St. Manchould Sommepey Ville en Tartonois Soissons Chateau-Thierry Charly Orbaye St. Martin Dou- blois Bar Sur Aube Ferre-en Tartonois Neuilly St. Fond	{ Serges Etamines Deversins	Brienne Chalons Vitry Joinville Chaumont Dionville Chaumont Rouzy Perthes Sunville	{ Serge Razes Serge a Londres Cloth Serge Estameites Everfins Etamines Druggets Cloth also White Etamines
Sedan	{ Very fine Cloth Cloth Serges	Montcornet	{ Serges Ratteens Estamets Reveches Cloth Serges Serge Razes Serge of Rheims Estamines Everfins Cloth Serges—like those of London Ratteens Pinchinats
Bouts Perres Jouville	{ White Etamines	Chalons—Has within its district 325 Master Clo- thiers	
Montcornet	{ Ratteens Reveches Cloth Serge Estamets		
Vervines Fontaine Plumiere	{ The same, and common Cloth		

The foregoing manufacturers reckon 1400 looms, and manufacture near 90,000 pieces annually.

GENERALITY of PICTIERS, &c.

St. Jean de Aage- lis	{ Cloths, ellwide Etamines	Tulle	{ Reveches or Petits Razes
Nerac	{ Cloth, generally 1900 pieces Serges, 1250 pieces	Brieve	{ Reveches Strong coarse Cloths
Angoulême	{ Serges Etamines	St. Leonard	{ Camblets Etamines Serges Crapes
La Rouchfaucault Limoges	{ Serge Reveches	Poitiers	
			Chastelleraud

Chastelleraud	{ Serges Etamines	Pouzanges	The same
Lusignan	{ Serges Razes Cloth Serge	St. Menun	Ditto
St. Maixant	{ Serge Razes Double Caps	Brefvire—a very considerable Ma- nufactory	{ Tiertaines Serge Razes Cloth Serges
Le Mothe St. Ge- raye	{ Stockings Serges	Moncontan	{ Tiertaines Cadiffes Druggets
Niort	{ Druggets Serge Razes Etamines Burettes Cloth Serges	St. Pierre	{ Cloth Ell-wide Serges Cloth Serge
Fontenay Le Comte	{ CLOTH, yard-wide Etamines Cadiffes	Thouan	{ Serge Razes Etamines Druggets
La Chasteigneraye	{ Sergettes Cloth Serge	Partenay	{ Imperial Druggets Common ditto
Cheuffois	{ Ditto Tiertaines	Azais	{ Coarse Serge Reveches Serge Razes
La Meilleraye	{ Narrow Druggets	Vivaisne	{ Coarse Serges Serges, Reveches Druggets
		Messe	
		Cuiray	
		Gencay	
		Coulognes	

In the foregoing Generality are made about 30,000 pieces of stuff yearly.

GENERALITY of ORLEANS.

St. Genoux	{ CLOTH	Gien	{ Cloth Trimieres White Frozens Estamines
Clamecy		Chaurite	{ Cloth Serges Felins
Chatillon sur Lo- ing		Penthieres	
Montargus		Pangoin	
ORLEANS.	{ Serge Tremieres Serges Estains Frocs Baguettes Crapes	Chaudas	{ Serge of two Es- tains
Blois a Baugency	{ Estimates and Serges	Razoches	
Vendomsé & Pierre		Illiers	
Fette		Anthoine	{ Grey and white Es- tamines.
Mointoir			
Salbey	{ Tourangalles and white Cloth Serges	ROMANTIN.—	{ WHITE CLOTHS, five quarters wide Ditto narrower
Souefme		This is the larg- est manufactory, and makes 5,500 pieces annually.	{ White Serge White Grey Grey and Serge Croiffes
Nouan le Fuzilier			{ WHITE CLOTH; half Spanish Wool, half Wool of Ber- ry
Vowzon			
Jergeaw	{ Cordats, or Cloth for the Capuchins Cloth Serges Baguettes Tiertaines		
Chatres			
St. Fargean			
Bron			
St. Aignan			
Chateau neuf			
Brinont			

This Generality makes from 25,000 to 30,000 pieces of cloth, &c. annually.

GENERALITY of TOURS.

Provinces of Touraine, Anjou, and Maine.

TOURAIN		Chateau	Etamines
Chinon		Gentiers	Druggets
Richlieu			Serge Croiffes
Loudun	Etamines		Etamines
Loches	Serges	La Fleche	Serges
Beaucieu			Druggets
St. Christophe		Montrieul	Ditto
St. Petor		Bellay	Serges
Laval		Beaufort	Etamines
Beaumout	Ditto, also	Durtal	Druggets
La Roue	Razes and		
Roziers	Serge Trimeires	Mayette	
Montrefoir		Chateau de Loir	
Villeloin	Serge half ell	Ferte	
Orbigny		Bernard	Etamines
Amboise		Beaumont le Vis-	Serge Tremieres
Beugnay		comte	
Chateau Reneut	Razes	Mayenne	
Neuville	Serge Tremicres	Laval	
Pointpierre	Etamines	Le Mau	Double Etamines
Maray	Druggets		Camlets
Neufay		Manjette	Strong Serge Tre-
Lqifant		Bonne Stable	mieres
Angers	Etamines		Etamines
	Serge Tremieres		

In this Generality are made about 18,000 pieces of stuff.

GENERALITY of BERRY.

Bourges		Linieres	
Iffouden		Leret	
Chateroux		La Chapelle Dan-	
Vierfan		guellan	
Selles		Aifne la Chateau	
Aubigny		St. Gautier	
Romorantin		Ivre le Pre	
Le Blanc		Argenton	Cloth of Berry
S. Amant		Newvy	Coarse Serge
Le Chartres		St. Sepulchre	Druggets
Chastellen		Argent	Tiretaines
Mehun		Valencay	Pinchinats
Aubigny	Cloth of Berry	Cinconet	
Dun le Roy	Coarse Serge	Baugy	
St. Benoist de Sault	Druggets	Sancergues	
Buzancois	Tiretaines	Lex Aix	
Leroux	Pinchinats	Blancafort	
St. Savin		Enrichemont	
Sancerre			

Moulins

Moulins	Serges Etamines Crapes	Cercy la Tour	Serges Etamines Cloths & Stuffs
Montlucon		Moulins Engilbert	
Herisson	Ditto		
Decize			

This Generality produces about 65,000 pieces of cloths and stuffs.

NORMANDY, divided into Three Generalities.

ROAN City — <i>These employ about 260 looms,</i>	FINE CLOTHS of Uffeau, Elbeuf, England Espagnolettes Druggets half-ell White Ratteens five quarters wide Barracans Berluchas	CAEN. — The cloths and Ratteens of one manufactory established by the Sieur Mail- seau, are only of <i>Spanish Wool</i> ; the other Woollen Stuffs made here employ seven hundred looms.	FINE CLOTHS af- ter the manner of England Ratteens Serges Lengettes Frocs Reveches
Darnetal, very an- cient, their first statute are in reign of Hen. III. 1587.	FINE CLOTHS af- ter the fashion of England and Hol- land, and of El- beuf, Uffeau. Druggets Pinchinats Blankets	St. Lo, in high re- putation. These different fabrics employ 2000 workmen and 90 looms	Strong Serges Finettes Razes
St. Aubin la Rivere. This commenced in 1691, under title of the Royal Manufactory.	The same	Vire Conde Caligny Montfegre Fastemout Cerisey Frenes	Common yard wide Cloths Serges Linguettes
Elbeuf	FINE CLOTHS like the English, and also coarse	These manufac- tures employ 300 looms, and make 12000 pieces an- nually.	
Orival	The same as Elbeuf		
Louviers	Cloths like English Ditto like Elbeuf		
Pont del' Arche, in great reputation	FINE CLOTHS af- ter the fashion of England. Serge like London	Coutance	Belingues and slight Stuffs
Gournay		Beyeaux	Cloth Serges
Bolbec	Frocs	Fresne	Ratteens
Gruchet		St. Pierre de Antre- mont	
Fescamp. — This Manufactory met with some diffi- culties in the be- ginning, but by the dexterity of three foreigners, the cloth now produced is as fine, and in all respects as good as those in England.	FINE CLOTHS like England Strong Serges ell- wide Frocs,	ALENÇON. — Here are made 52,000 pieces of CLOTH & other drapery.	1 Strong Serge Etamines 1 ell Crapes
		Leez	Serges
		Argentan	Etamines
		Falais	Serge sur Estain
		Lisieux	Serge Tremieres
		Vernevil	Frocs Serge Croiffes Druggets

Dreux

Breux	Cloth Strong Serges Serges like London Estimats Demi-Estimats	Bretagne, principal places are, Nantes Rennes, Bourg Dinan St. Brieux Lamballa Chateau Briant Nozay Reder Joffelin Le Guay de Pletant St. Croix Auvray Vannes Malestroit Rocheport Chateau neuf Lengonna Rarillac	Etamines Druggets Serges Moletons Crapes and narrow Cloths
Aumale. — This manufacture is in high esteem; there are work- ed in and about it 1200 looms.	Serge called Serge d'Aumale		
Nogent le Retrou, employs about 400 looms	Etamines Druggets		
Bouence	Etamines		
Ecouchay	Strong Serge Serge Premiere Etamines		
Laigle	Slight Stuifs Serges		
Vire	Etamines		

In Bretagne are employed 800 looms.

GENERALITY of BOURGOGNE.

Beaune Vitaux Seamur Saulies Montbart Rovray Avalon Auxerrois Nuits Pont le Vaux Autun Joigny Sens Villeneuve L'Archeveque Bigny Ancy la Franc	CLOTHS	Dijon Marcy Auxerre Siegnelay Amay le Duc Auxerre Chatillon upon Seine Chasnelles Samur Montbart Auxerre Nuitz Beaune Louhans Clungy Macon Montluet.	Serges of all sorts, especially Cloth Serges, and Serges after the fashion of London
			Druggets Tiertaines Tolanches

Stocking Manufac-
tory after the fa-
shion of England

DAUPHINY

DAUPHINY and PROVENCE.

GRENOBLE, chief place of the Fabrics	Cloth	Monthimat and twenty-five places	Ratteens and Sergettes
Virin and five Parishes	Druggets and Coarse Cloths	Dien de Fit and twenty places	Sergettes
Turio and nine Parishes	Cloth	Buis and three places	Sergettes Cordelleites
Roybon and seven Parishes	Cloth Ratteens Serge	Valence	Cloth and Ratteens
Serre and eight Parishes	Cloth Ratteens Serge	Vienne and seventeen places	Druggets
Beaurepaire and three Parishes	Cloths	Toulouna	Pinchinets, two sorts, one all Spanish Wool, the other the Wool of the country
St. Jean en Royans and six Parishes	Stuffs, and above 1000 pieces of Cloth	Aix, Gordes, Apt, Ayquires, Auriol, Signe, Colmars	
Romans and twelve Parishes	Cordelats, 2000 pieces—Ratteens 1000—ditto Estimaux, 1500—Cloths, 1600	Digne, La Roque Mauve, Soleres Cuers, Pequant Camouilles, Luc Draguman	Cadis and Cordelats
Pont en Royan and seventeen Parishes	CLOTHS only	Lorgnes Colmart Degni	CLOTHS 3-quar. and half wide.
Crest and thirteen places	Ratteens Cordelats	Arles Grignan	Narrow Raze Sergettes

LANGUEDOC.

Rieux, Granges des Pres, Lodever, Carcassone, Limoux, Castres, Alby, Alet St. Colombe, Lannolanet, Leissac, La Grace, Sapt, Chelabres, Mezamet, Ferriers, Caune, Bedarrieux, St. Sivran, Quissac, St. Hypolite, Bauseley, Vigan, Ganges, Saumennas, Anduze, Alais, St. Gervais, Sommieres Gardonnaque, Salle, Beziere, Amiane, and Beaucaire

Cloth, Cadis, Burats, Serges, Ratteens, Cordelats, Bays, Crapes, Razes, Tiretains, Druggets

At Sapt the manufacture is very considerable of Spanish Wool. At Lodove also it is very considerable and in great esteem. They make 45,000 pieces white and grey.

Clermont, the royal } FINE CLOTHS, very considerable
manufactory }
The annual product and Manufacture of Languedoc in the following articles, is,

	Livres.
Sheep	1,000,000
Fustians and Bafins	90,000
Blankets	230,000
Bergames and Tapestry	20,000
Woollen Stuffs, fine and coarse	4,100,000
Cloths, fine and others	8,450,000
Woollen Stockings	40,000
Hats	400,000
	<hr/> 14,330,000

Which is in sterling money about
£. 1,074,750.

Lxxv

Low Navarre and Bearne, Flanders, the Austrian Low Countries, Lorraine and Bar.

Ypres
Batieul
Poperingue
In Ypres their scar-
let dye is very
fine.

FINE CLOTHS
Serge

BRDGES.—This is
the great maga-
zine for *Spanish*
and *English* wool.

St. Nicholas
St. Mary
Aux Metz

Anacostes
Lamparilles
Serges
Bay
Camlets

Coarse Cloths

BISHOPRICS of Metz, Toul, and Verdun, of Alsace, Rouffillon.

Metz and its vicin-
ity.—The trade
of this Bishopric
has arrived to
such perfection,
and the trade so
great, that the
Council Royal of
the Commerce of

Rattees
Light Serges
Pinchinats
Druggets

France; have
thought it ne-
cessary to esta-
blish an Inspec-
tor of it.

Strasbourg

Rattees
Light Serges
Pinchinats
Druggets

Tapestry
Narrow Cloths
Blankets
Fustians

10 NO 69

F I N I S.

